REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 11, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 4-11, 16-17, and 20 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 2-3, 12-15, and 18-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 21-22 have been added. No new matter has been added and no new issues are raised which require further consideration or search. Therefore, claims 1, 4-11, 16-17, and 21-22 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Sanchez Herrero et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,177,642) ("Herrero"). Applicants respectfully submit that said claims recite allowable subject matter for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1, upon which claims 4-9 and 21 are dependent, recites a method, which includes registering in a controller entity a plurality of contact addresses for a user, and receiving a request at the controller entity for a communication link to the user. The method further includes querying by the controller entity a database for information regarding a manner regarding how to handle the request, the information indicating if the request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially, and processing the request in accordance with the information from the database.

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Claim 10 recites a system, which includes a multimedia network provided with a controller entity configured to register contact addresses of a user, and a database configured to store information regarding a manner regarding how to handle a request for the user, the information indicating if the request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially. The controller entity is configured to query the user information storage and configured to process requests for connections to the user in accordance with the information queried from the database.

Claim 11, upon which claim 16 is dependent, recites an apparatus, which includes a register configured to register a plurality of contact addresses for a user, and an interface to a database configured to store information regarding a manner regarding how to handle a request for the user. The apparatus further includes a querying unit configured to query the database, and a processor configured to process requests for connections to the user in accordance with the information from the database, the information indicating if the request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially.

Claim 17 recites a user information storage, which includes a user profile, and a storage configured to store information regarding how to handle a request for connection to a user having a plurality of registered contact addresses and to respond to a query from a controller entity with information regarding the manner how to process the request for connection, the information indicating if the request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially.

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Claim 20 recites an apparatus, which includes registration means for registering a plurality of contact addresses for a user, and interface means for interfacing to a database means for storing information regarding how to handle a request for the user. The method further includes querying means for querying the database means for information regarding a manner regarding how to handle the request, and processing means for processing the request in accordance with the information from the storage means, the information indicating if the request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially.

Claim 22 recites a method, which includes registering in a serving call session control function a plurality of contact addresses for a user, and receiving a request at the serving call session control function for a communication linked to the user. The method further includes querying a database for information regarding a manner as to how to handle the request, the information indicating if the request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially, the querying being performed if no preferences for forking has been indicated in the registering, and processing the request in accordance with the information from the database.

As will be discussed below, Herrero fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

Herrero generally discloses a method for supporting multiple registration from the same user, which is requested from different terminals in a telecommunications system, where the system manages information related to the location of the user and related to the plurality of identifiers that identify the user in the system. The method allows further

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multiple session establishment to any of the different terminals. Herrero further discloses that, in the home server of the user, a plurality of private identities related to the subscriber data of the user, together with at least a public identify, is stored. Each registration of the user contains a public identity assigned to the user and a private identity among the plurality of the private identities assigned to the user. (see Herrero at Abstract).

Applicants respectfully submit that Herrero fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, all of the elements of the present claims. For example, Herrero fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, at least, "*querying by the controller entity a database for information regarding a manner regarding how to handle the request, said information indicating if said request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially,*" as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 20 and 22; "*a database configured to store information regarding a manner regarding how to handle a request for the user, said information indicating if said request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially,*" as recited in independent claim 10; "*a processor configured to process requests for connections to the user in accordance with the information from the database, said information indicating if said request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially,*" as recited in independent claim 11; and "*a storage configured to store information regarding how to handle a request for connection to a user having a plurality of registered contact addresses and to respond to a query from a controller entity with information regarding the manner how to process the request for connection, said*

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information indicating if said request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially," as recited in independent claim 17.

Herrero includes two descriptions of forking. In the first description, Herrero discloses that a I-CSCF forwards an INVITE message simultaneously to more than one of said plurality of S-CSCFs. Alternatively, the I-CSCF forwards an INVITE message sequentially to more than one of the plurality of S-CSCFs until the INVITE message is awarded by one of them. (see Herrero at col. 22, lines 15-37). However, the cited portion of Herrero fails to disclose, or suggest, how the I-CSCF determines whether to parallel fork or sequentially fork. Thus, the cited portion of Herrero fails to disclose *"information indicating if said request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially,"* as recited in the independent claims. Furthermore, the cited portion of Herrero discloses that the I-CSCF forwards the INVITE message, and the I-CSCF is not a controller entity with which the registering occurs.

In the second description, Herrero discloses that once the S-CSCF receives the message, the S-CSCF either forwards the INVITE message simultaneously to a plurality of P-CSCFs, or forwards the INVITE message in a sequential method to the P-CSCFs which is similar to the sequential method in which the I-CSCF forwards the INVITE message to a plurality of S-CSCFs. (see Herrero at col. 23, lines 11-46). Again, the cited portion of Herrero fails to disclose, or suggest, how the S-CSCF determines whether to parallel fork or sequentially fork, and thus, the cited portion of Herrero also fails to

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disclose, *"information indicating if said request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially,"* as recited in the independent claims.

Finally, Figures 1 to 3 of the prior art show a scenario where a given user holds a single subscription. There is no disclosure, or suggestion, in the description of the invention relating to Figures 1 and 3 of either sequential forking, or parallel forking.

Furthermore, Herrero fails to address the problem of which embodiments of the present invention is dealing with. In the prior art, a user is able to register a single public user identity from multiple locations using more than one contact address. When processing an incoming request, a network has a choice to route the request. If the network decides that it should fork a request (i.e. send the request to more than one address), the network needs to decide whether sequential forking (sending the request to one address at a time) or parallel forking (sending the request to multiple addresses at the same time) should be used. With the prior art, a called party is able to indicate a preference, and a calling party can also indicate a preference. However, a problem exists that if neither of the parties defines a preference, it is unclear how the network should decide whether to implement sequential forking or parallel forking.

In contrast to the prior art, embodiments of the present invention address this problem through querying, by a controller entity, a database for information regarding how to handle an incoming request. The information indicates if the request is to be forked in parallel or sequentially. The request can then be processed in accordance with

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the information from the database. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not taught, nor suggested, by Herrero.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Herrero fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, all of the elements of independent claims 1, 10-11, 17, 20, and 22. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.
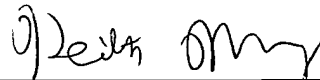
Claims 4-9 and 21 depend upon independent claim 1. Claim 16 depends upon independent claim 11. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-9, 16, and 21 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, and for the specific elements recited therein.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art references fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1, 4-11, 16-17, and 21-22 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

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In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
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